

## APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SUTURING IN RESTRICTED SPACE

### Abstract of the Disclosure

Apparatus and methods of the present invention make possible suturing procedures in restricted spaces. In one embodiment, an applicator operated substantially perpendicular to a surgical field permits single-handed operation of a suture assembly to position a suture hook through tissues to be sutured. The suture hook having suture attached resists withdrawal of the suture from the tissues. A clip applicator, also operated substantially perpendicular to the surgical field, permits single-handed application of a suture clip which grips the suture to form a stitch which maintains required pressure on the tissues. In end-to-side anastomosis and like procedures, a tubular arteriotomy tool inserted in a graft provides a hook to secure tissue that is severed by rotating a sharpened edge of the tool against the tissue, the removal of the tissue facilitated by the hook.

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